Policy on Cheque Collection Charges by IOC

590. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a request from HPDA regarding directions to Indian Oil for the reimbursement of excess cheque collection charges charged by the Corporation on the supplies of petrol and diesel pending with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the request would be strictly dealt as per approved policy; and

(d) the reasons for delay and action taken/proposed to be taken against the officers found guilty for violation of policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The HPDA had brought to notice of the Government the issue of charging of bank charges by the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) on outstation cheques received by them from the dealers.

(c) and (d) The matter was examined. The dealers are reimbursed demand draft/pay orders/bankers' cheque charges on normative basis at the rates approved by the Government. The outstation cheque facility is an additional facility extended to the dealers by the oil companies. IOC has informed that since they are required to pay bank charges to the bankers on outstation cheques so received from the dealers and deposited by them, such charges in turn are received by them from the dealers.

Oil exploration in Orissa

591. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have started exploration of oil and gas in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have surveyed the total reserves of oil and gas in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details of oil and gas reserves deposited in the Mahanadi basin and other parts of Orissa, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Considerable amount of exploratory works in Mahanadi basin, which lies partly in the State of Orissa and partly offshore, has been undertaken since 1970s by Oil India Limited (OIL) and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC). These efforts could not however, establish any hydrocarbon reserves. In the last two years, through New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), the Government of India has signed Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) for six blocks in Mahanadi basin, both offshore and onland, with various Public Sector and Private Sector companies. This includes one onland exploration block in the State of Orissa, the PSC for which was signed in July, 2001 with the consortium of OIL, ONGC, Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC).

(c) Oil India Ltd. (OIL) has collected about 14,250 Line Kilometer (LK) of ZD survey data, 3343 LK of 3D seismic data, 1575 LK of Deep Seismic Sounding data, Aero-magnetic & Gravity magnetic surveys, and 4980 LK geochemical survey and also drilled 4 wells in onland areas, and 11 wells in offshore areas, including North-East coast basin.

(d) No hydrocarbon reserves have been established so far in Mahanadi basin and in the State of Orissa.

Oil refinery in Barmer

592. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are exploring the possibilities of installing an oil refinery in Barmer District of Rajasthan where large oil resources have been found; and

(b) if so, by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.